

Becoming Equipped and Encouraged for the Gospel

An Introduction to 2 Timothy

(Illustration of Equipping and Encouraging)

Paul wrote this second letter to Timothy while he was imprisoned in Roman the 2nd time. This would have been after Paul's fourth missionary journey, and all though not arranged in the NT as this, many scholars believe this would have been his last letter written. It was written probably around A.D. 64 and 68. In 2 Tim. 4:16-18 Paul had received a court hearing and expected to be executed soon (4:6-8). Paul wrote this letter to both equip and to encourage Timothy as well as to equip and to encourage the church. We glean this from the plural form of "you" in 4:22 noting the value of sharing this with the congregation in **"...grace be with you."**

Who is Timothy? We first meet Timothy in **Acts 16:1 "Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek."** We know that according to 2 Timothy 1:2-5, Timothy was Paul's spiritual child (he discipled him) v.2, he was prayed for often. v.3, Enjoyed fellowship with him. v.4, and that his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice had great influence. 2 Timothy 3:15 affirms is: **"and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings..."** "Fox's book of Martyrs" states that Timothy was the elder/pastor to the Ephesians and died at 97 years old as a martyr of the faith.

If Equipping and Encouraging is a major focus throughout 2 Timothy, why is this biblically important?

The spreading of the gospel depends on the ministry of equipping and encouraging. Romans 10:14 states: **"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?"** Every believer must be encouraged & equipped for the ministry of the gospel! For the first time in history, less than 50% of Americans are members of a local church. Less than 30% of North Americans say a Christian has shared the plan of salvation with them. I believe there is a clear connection. Equipping and Encouraging is important! Here are some biblical realities:

- a. The mandate makes this our mission. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- b. The manner of love makes this our motivation. (Matthew 22:37-39)
- c. The method of the Holy Spirit makes this our means. (Acts 1:8)
- d. The ministry of the pastor must make this his main priority. (Ephesians 4:12-13)

An Outline for 2 Timothy for **"Becoming Equipped and Encouraged for the Gospel"**

1. Equipped to be Fearless for the Gospel (2 Timothy 1:1-14) "Guard the Gospel"
2. Equipped to be a Fortress for the Gospel (2 Timothy 2:1-13) "Suffer for the Gospel"
3. Equipped to be a Faithful Worker for the Gospel (2 Timothy 2:14-26) "Be a Servant of the Gospel"

4. Equipped to Live in a Faithless World for the Gospel (2 Timothy 3:1-17) “Continue in the Gospel”
5. Equipped to Faithfully Proclaim the Gospel (2 Timothy 4:1-8) “Share the Gospel”